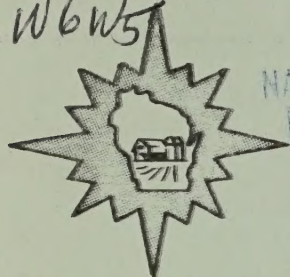


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

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VOL. XII, NO. 7

SERIALS CONTROL AND
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May 1980

Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in April was up 2 percent from a year ago, while the Nation's output increased 3 percent.

Wholesale prices of dairy products in April were higher than the previous month.

Cheese and butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March was above a year earlier, and weekly estimates for April indicated a continuation of higher production.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in April were up 13 cents from March and \$1.05 more than last year.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of April were 10 percent above the previous year, while butter stocks were up 8 percent.

The value of milk sold by Wisconsin farmers in 1979 totaled \$2.5 billion, an increase of 18 percent from 1978.

Marathon County continued as the leading milk producing county, with over 1 billion pounds for 1979.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-April was down 6 points from a month earlier.

Maple syrup production in Wisconsin during the spring of 1980 was 20 percent larger than a year ago, but the National maple syrup output declined 20 percent.

Planting of crops proceeded rapidly in Wisconsin this spring due to dry weather and favorable field conditions.

Cold storage stocks of red meat in the Nation at the end of April were down 9 percent from a year earlier, but stocks of poultry were up 55 percent.

Prices for hogs and beef cattle at Wisconsin markets during April were lower than the previous month and well below last year.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in April totaled 1,940 million pounds, an increase of 2 percent from April 1979. The number of milk cows on farms during April was equal to a year earlier but production per cow was up 25 pounds. The State's milk production increased about one-half percent from March to April in comparison to no change for those months in 1979. During the first four months of this year, milk production in Wisconsin was 2 percent higher than in that period last year.

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to Wisconsin milk cows during 1979 totaled 4.4 million tons, an increase of 9 percent from 1978. Dairymen fed an average of 4,840 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow in 1979, up 380 pounds from the previous year. The average value for 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in 1979 was \$6.01 a hundredweight, a gain of 36 cents from 1978. Milk-feed price ratios were above a year earlier in the first half of 1979 but fell below in the second half as feed prices increased more than milk prices.

Milk Production

Selected States	April 1979	April 1980	Jan-April 1980	Change from last year	
				April	Jan-April
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . .	1,895	1,940	7,388	+ 2	+ 2
Minnesota . . .	829	846	3,269	+ 2	+ 1
New York . . .	938	967	3,672	+ 3	+ 3
Pennsylvania . .	684	694	2,771	+ 1	+ 6
California . . .	1,025	1,080	4,188	+ 5	+ 8
Other states . . .	5,229	5,414	20,711	+ 4	+ 4
United States .	10,600	10,941	41,999	+ 3	+ 4

The Nation's milk production for April totaled 10.9 billion pounds, 3 percent above a year ago. Accumulated production for the first four months of 1980 was up 4 percent from the same period last year. Production per cow averaged 1,015 pounds for April, an increase of 30 pounds from April 1979. There were 10.8 million milk cows on the Nation's farms during April, slightly more than a year ago. The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to the Nation's

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milk cows in 1979 was up 5 percent from 1978. An average of 5,060 pounds of concentrate ration was fed per cow in 1979, an increase of 257 pounds from the previous year. The value of the 1979 concentrate ration averaged \$6.68 a hundredweight, 60 cents more than in 1978.

MILK PRICE UP IN APRIL

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in April were expected to average \$12.60 a hundredweight, an increase of 13 cents from March and \$1.05 above last year.

The March average milk price of \$12.47 a hundredweight was 14 cents higher than the previous month and 93 cents more than a year earlier. Milkfat content averaged 3.79 percent for March, the same as in March 1979.

Milk produced for the grade A market averaged \$12.63 a hundredweight in March, a gain of 14 cents from a month earlier and 91 cents above a year ago. Manufacturing grade milk returned an average of \$12.10 a hundredweight for March, up 12 cents from February and 97 cents greater than last year.

The 3.5 percent base price for manufacturing grade milk in March was \$11.68 a hundredweight, 46 cents above the government support price for March.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	February 1980		March price per cwt.		April 1980 price per cwt. 2/	
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1979	1980	80/79 change	Percent
Milk for all uses	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Wisconsin	3.81	12.33	11.54	12.47	+ 8	12.60
Minnesota	3.68	11.96	11.02	12.06	+ 9	12.30
New York	3.68	12.50	11.40	12.40	+ 9	12.50
California	3.71	12.50	10.90	12.30	+ 13	12.40
United States	3.76	12.80	11.80	12.70	+ 8	12.70
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.80	12.49	11.73	12.63	+ 8	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.82	11.98	11.13	12.10	+ 9	XXX
Creameries	3.82	11.83	11.02	11.96	+ 9	XXX
Cheese factories	3.82	12.00	11.15	12.12	+ 9	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.81	11.86	11.02	11.99	+ 9	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

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Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	March 1979	February 1980	March 1980 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Market milk	11.33	12.04	12.19	+ 8
Manufacturing milk	10.77	11.53	11.68	+ 8
Creameries	10.66	11.38	11.54	+ 8
American cheese plants	10.78	11.52	11.68	+ 8
Varied products plants	10.65	11.43	11.57	+ 9
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	11.13	11.89	12.05	+ 8

1/Computed using milkfat differential. 2/Preliminary.

MARCH BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCTION ABOVE YEAR AGO

Production of butter and cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation during March remained higher than a year ago. Dairy plants in Wisconsin churned 77.3 million pounds of butter in March, up 9 percent from the previous year. The National butter output for March was 14 percent above a year earlier. Although Minnesota showed a decline of 6 percent, California's butter production was 46 percent more than in March 1979 while other states increased 16 percent.

Wisconsin produced 83 million pounds of American cheese in March, 4 percent higher than a year ago. The Nation's output of American cheese for March was up 5 percent from last year. Production of American cheese in Iowa during March was down 4 percent from the previous year, but Minnesota's output gained 7 percent and other states had an increase of 6 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	March 1979	March 1980	Jan-Mar 1980	Change from last year
				March 1979 Jan-Mar
1,000 pounds				
Percent				
BUTTER				
Wisconsin	24,200	26,300	77,300	+ 9 + 9
Minnesota	15,665	14,765	40,605	- 6 + 8
California	10,465	15,300	47,600	+ 46 + 37
Other states	39,003	45,324	139,036	+ 16 + 12
United States	89,333	101,689	304,641	+ 14 + 11
CHEESE, AMERICAN				
Wisconsin	79,850	83,000	231,800	+ 4 + 4
Minnesota	36,550	39,020	114,250	+ 7 + 4
Iowa	8,200	7,897	22,770	- 4 - 6
Other states	60,712	64,600	184,234	+ 6 + 9
United States	185,312	194,517	553,054	+ 5 + 5
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS				
United States				
Swiss	17,642	17,538	51,450	+ 1 + 2
Brick and Muenster	6,501	6,929	19,859	+ 7 + 9
Italian	82,330	92,925	252,350	+ 13 + 12
All other	31,005	29,175	72,734	- 6 + 10
Total	137,478	146,567	396,393	+ 6 + 9
ALL CHEESE				
United States	322,990	341,084	949,447	+ 6 + 7
OTHER PRODUCTS				
Cottage Cheese				
United States				
Curd 1/	61,970	57,468	166,845	- 7 - 3
Creamed 2/	79,912	72,241	207,808	- 10 - 3
Lowfat 3/	14,883	14,399	41,599	- 3 + 7
ICE CREAM				
Wisconsin	1,600	1,650	4,300	+ 3 + 5
Illinois	3,470	3,280	9,140	- 5 + 5
Iowa	1,080	1,210	3,242	+ 12 + 25
Michigan	3,180	3,000	8,200	- 6 - 2
Minnesota	2,445	2,530	7,765	+ 3 + 12
Other states	59,308	56,789	152,547	- 4 - 1
United States	71,083	68,459	185,194	- 4 n.c.

1/Mostly used for processing into creamed or lowfat cottage cheese. 2/Fat content 4 percent or more. 3/Fat content less than 4 percent.

Total cheese production in the Nation during March was 6 percent above a year earlier. In addition to the increase of American cheese, output of Italian cheese was up 13 percent from March 1979 while Brick and Muenster production gained 7 percent. Swiss cheese production for March was down 1 percent from the previous year and output of other varieties dropped 6 percent. The Nation's production of cottage cheese and ice cream during March was below a year ago.

CHEESE STOCKS UP 10 PERCENT

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of April were 10 percent higher than a year earlier. The 509.4 million pounds of cheese in cold storage on April 30th were nearly equal to the record high for that date in 1977. Stocks of American cheese, at almost 402 million pounds, were up 6

percent from April 30, 1979. Wisconsin had 220 million pounds of American cheese in cold storage at the end of April, 12 percent more than a year ago. Government stocks of American cheese amounted to 3.5 million pounds compared with 2.2 million pounds on April 30th last year. The Nation's cold storage stocks of Swiss cheese at the end of April were 6 percent more than the previous year, while all other cheese stocks were up 32 percent.

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of April totaled 235 million pounds, 8 percent above a year earlier. The Government held nearly 182 million pounds of butter, an increase of 2 percent from April 30, 1979.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	April 30 1978	April 30 1979	April 30 1980	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter	246,189	218,212	235,157	+ 8
Cheese, American	379,188	377,599	401,923	+16
Cheese, Swiss	9,981	12,648	12,781	+1
Cheese, all other	57,953	71,915	94,708	+32
Cheese, total	447,122	462,162	509,412	+10
WISCONSIN				
Butter	24,665	30,371	38,587	+27
Cheese, American	198,962	196,950	219,986	+12
Butter	195,771	178,006	181,760	+2
Cheese, American	26,646	2,241	3,533	+58
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	195,771	178,006	181,760	+2
Cheese, American	26,646	2,241	3,533	+58

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

1979 MILK SALES VALUED AT \$2.5 BILLION

The value of milk sold by Wisconsin farmers in 1979 totaled \$2.5 billion, an increase of 18 percent from 1978. There were 21.4 billion pounds of milk marketed from Wisconsin farms last year, up 3 percent from the previous year. Milk prices averaged \$11.75 a hundredweight for 1979, a gain of \$1.49 from the 1978 price.

Wisconsin's milk production in 1979 was a record 22 billion pounds. Farmers marketed 97.6 percent of that total and kept the remainder for use on their farms.

Disposition and Sales of Milk Produced, Wisconsin 1961-79

Year	Total milk production	Milk fed or consumed on farms where produced				Milk sold from farms					Value of sales
		Fed to calves	Consumed in the farm household		Total	To plants and dealers		Direct to consumers	Total		
			As milk and cream	As farm butter		As cream	As milk				
											1,000 dollars
					Million pounds						
1961	17,931	515	302	4	821	30	17,050	30	17,110	609,158	
1962	18,598	490	286	3	779	20	17,770	29	17,819	609,297	
1963	18,597	475	277	2	754	14	17,800	29	17,843	610,199	
1964	19,358	460	267	2	729	10	18,590	29	18,629	646,243	
1965	18,841	445	257	1	703	9	18,100	29	18,138	645,514	
1966	18,052	430	240	1	671	5	17,350	26	17,381	741,953	
1967	18,219	415	229	1	658	5	17,530	26	17,561	763,812	
1968	18,210	400	209	1	609	5	17,570	26	17,601	807,717	
1969	18,051	384	210	1	594	2	17,430	25	17,457	851,741	
1970	18,435	383	196	1	579	1	17,830	25	17,856	915,774	
1971	18,848	386	182	—	568	—	18,260	20	18,280	970,059	
1972	19,226	381	181	—	562	—	18,645	19	18,664	1,035,142	
1973	18,442	376	178	—	554	—	17,870	18	17,888	1,201,337	
1974	18,713	372	175	—	547	—	18,150	16	18,166	1,396,227	
1975	18,900	373	172	—	545	—	18,340	15	18,355	1,500,541	
1976	20,296	371	170	—	541	—	19,740	15	19,755	1,810,417	
1977	21,041	358	168	—	526	—	20,500	15	20,515	1,890,352	
1978	21,252	360	163	—	523	—	20,715	14	20,729	2,127,573	
1979*	21,950	358	159	—	517	—	21,420	13	21,433	2,519,087	

*Preliminary. 1/Includes some milk used for other purposes on farms or not utilized.

Milk Cows, Production Per Cow, and Total Milk Production, By Counties, Wisconsin, 1978-79

County	1978			1979 1/			
	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Production	
						Quantity	Rank
	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	
Barron	47,300	11,600	548,680	47,400	12,000	568,800	11
Bayfield	5,600	11,100	62,160	5,600	11,500	64,400	61
Burnett	7,200	10,900	78,480	7,200	11,200	80,640	59
Chippewa	50,600	11,600	586,960	50,700	12,000	608,400	8
Douglas	2,400	10,800	25,920	2,500	11,100	27,750	65
Polk	33,900	11,700	396,630	34,000	12,000	408,000	23
Rusk	18,600	10,400	193,440	18,600	10,800	200,880	44
Sawyer	3,300	10,600	34,980	3,300	11,100	36,630	64
Washburn	5,800	11,200	64,960	5,800	11,500	66,700	60
Northwest District	174,700	11,404	1,992,210	175,100	11,777	2,062,200	
Ashland	3,800	10,800	41,040	3,700	11,100	41,070	63
Clark	67,800	11,900	806,820	67,900	12,300	835,170	2
Iron	600	10,600	6,360	600	10,900	6,540	68
Lincoln	11,500	11,100	127,650	11,500	11,400	131,100	51
Marathon	85,800	12,000	1,029,600	85,900	12,300	1,056,570	1
Oneida	400	10,500	4,200	400	10,700	4,280	69
Price	9,400	10,400	97,760	9,400	10,700	100,580	55
Taylor	30,100	11,400	343,140	30,100	11,800	355,180	28
Vilas	100	10,100	1,010	100	10,500	1,050	71
North Central District	209,500	11,731	2,457,580	209,600	12,078	2,531,540	
Florence	1,100	11,400	12,540	1,100	11,800	12,980	67
Forest	1,800	10,400	18,720	1,800	10,800	19,440	66
Langlade	13,300	11,300	150,290	13,300	11,600	154,280	49
Marinette	14,200	11,000	156,200	14,200	11,500	163,300	48
Oconto	30,400	11,200	340,480	30,400	11,500	349,600	29
Shawano	47,700	12,000	572,400	47,700	12,300	586,710	9
Northeast District	108,500	11,527	1,250,630	108,500	11,855	1,286,310	
Buffalo	28,400	11,300	320,920	28,800	11,800	339,840	31
Dunn	40,900	11,400	466,260	41,100	11,900	489,090	16
Eau Claire	22,200	11,100	246,420	22,200	11,600	257,520	39
Jackson	19,000	11,200	212,800	19,000	11,600	220,400	41
La Crosse	20,100	11,600	233,160	20,100	12,000	241,200	40
Monroe	37,600	11,100	417,360	37,700	11,500	433,550	20
Pepin	10,000	11,200	112,000	10,100	11,600	117,160	54
Pierce	25,800	11,800	304,440	25,900	12,200	315,980	32
St. Croix	35,500	11,700	415,350	35,600	12,200	434,320	19
Trempealeau	35,500	11,500	408,250	35,600	12,000	427,200	21
West Central District	275,000	11,407	3,136,960	276,100	11,866	3,276,260	
Adams	3,600	11,100	39,960	3,600	11,600	41,760	62
Green Lake	14,600	11,800	172,280	14,600	12,100	176,660	46
Juneau	14,400	11,400	164,160	14,400	11,800	169,920	47
Marquette	7,300	11,100	81,030	7,300	11,500	83,950	58
Portage	17,100	11,400	194,940	17,100	11,800	201,780	43
Waupaca	33,800	11,500	388,700	33,800	11,900	402,220	24
Waushara	12,200	11,600	141,520	12,200	12,000	146,400	50
Wood	25,900	11,300	292,670	25,900	11,700	303,030	34
Central District	128,900	11,445	1,475,260	128,900	11,836	1,525,720	
Brown	39,000	12,300	479,700	39,000	12,600	491,400	14*
Calumet	30,500	12,300	375,150	30,600	12,600	385,560	25
Door	15,500	11,700	181,350	15,500	12,200	189,100	45
Fond du Lac	50,500	12,300	621,150	50,500	12,700	641,350	6
Kewaunee	30,200	11,700	353,340	30,300	12,200	369,660	26
Manitowoc	44,800	12,200	546,560	44,800	12,500	560,000	12
Outagamie	45,800	12,300	563,340	45,900	12,600	578,340	10
Sheboygan	32,300	12,400	400,520	32,300	12,800	413,440	22
Winnebago	24,000	12,200	292,800	24,000	12,600	302,400	35
East Central District	312,600	12,201	3,813,910	312,900	12,564	3,931,250	
Crawford	19,000	10,800	205,200	19,100	11,200	213,920	42
Grant	56,100	11,300	633,930	56,300	11,800	664,340	5
Iowa	37,800	11,300	427,140	37,900	11,600	439,640	18
Lafayette	41,900	11,300	473,470	42,000	11,700	491,400	14*
Richland	27,500	11,100	305,250	27,500	11,400	313,500	33
Sauk	38,300	11,600	444,280	38,400	11,900	456,960	17
Vernon	44,700	10,700	478,290	44,800	11,100	497,280	13
Southwest District	265,300	11,186	2,967,560	266,000	11,568	3,077,040	
Columbia	23,300	12,400	288,920	23,400	12,700	297,180	36
Dane	64,900	12,500	811,250	65,000	12,800	832,000	3
Dodge	63,100	12,500	788,750	63,100	12,800	807,680	4
Green	50,200	12,300	617,460	50,300	12,700	638,810	7
Jefferson	28,800	12,500	360,000	28,800	12,800	368,640	27
Rock	27,600	12,100	333,960	27,600	12,400	342,240	30
South Central District	257,900	12,409	3,200,340	258,200	12,729	3,286,550	
Kenosha	7,200	12,200	87,840	6,900	12,500	86,250	57
Milwaukee	200	11,500	2,300	200	11,900	2,380	70
Ozaukee	10,300	11,700	120,510	10,200	12,100	123,420	52
Racine	7,200	12,400	89,280	6,900	12,700	87,630	56
Walworth	21,100	12,400	261,640	21,000	12,700	266,700	38
Washington	22,600	12,300	277,980	22,500	12,700	285,750	37
Waukesha	10,000	11,800	118,000	10,000	12,100	121,000	53
Southeast District	78,600	12,183	957,550	77,700	12,524	973,130	
State	1,811,000	11,735	21,252,000	1,813,000	12,107	21,950,000	

1/Preliminary. 2/Average number of milk cows on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. *Tied.

APRIL BUTTER PRODUCTION WELL ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

Weekly estimates for April indicated that butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation was substantially higher than in April 1979. The National butter output during April was up about 18 percent from the previous year. Butter production in the Nation for the first quarter of 1980 was 11 percent higher than in that period last year. Wisconsin's butter production during April was nearly one-fourth more than a year earlier. Butter churnings in the State for the first quarter of this year were 9 percent above that quarter in 1979.

Production of American cheese in the Nation during April was 4 percent higher than a year ago, nearly equalling the increase shown for the first quarter of 1980. American cheese output in Wisconsin during April was about 6 percent larger than in that month of 1979. For the first quarter of this year, the State's American cheese production was up 4 percent from January-March last year.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1980	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1980	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
March . . .	101,689	+ 14	+ 9	194,517	+ 5	+ 4
Jan-March .	304,541	+ 11	+ 9	553,054	+ 5	+ 4
Weeks ending						
April 10 .	25,300	+ 22	+ 25	46,200	+ 5	+ 4
April 17 .	25,400	+ 14	+ 22	47,000	+ 4	+ 6
April 24 .	26,000	+ 18	+ 25	47,400	+ 3	+ 8
May 1 .	26,100	+ 20	+ 23	47,800	+ 5	+ 7
Total . . .	102,800	+ 18	XXX	188,400	+ 4	XXX

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES HIGHER

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from March to April. The 92-score butter price at the New York market averaged 139.62 cents a pound for April, up 3 cents from the previous month and nearly 16 cents above last year.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 131.43 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during April. This was almost 2 cents more than in March and 10 cents higher than a year ago.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 173.49 cents a pound for April. Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese were up nearly 7 cents from March and were 22.5 cents above April 1979.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	April 1979	March 1980	April 1980
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	123.94¢	136.69¢	139.62¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. block, pound 1/. . .	121.25¢	129.60¢	131.43¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block, pound 1/.	151.00¢	166.73¢	173.49¢
National evaporated milk, case, 48 13-fluid-oz. cans	\$17.49	\$19.20	\$19.64
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	77.61¢	84.24¢	87.11¢

1/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

The National evaporated milk price averaged \$19.64 per case in April, a gain of 44 cents from the previous month and \$2.15 more than last year.

Nonfat dry milk prices averaged 87.11 cents a pound during April, nearly 3 cents higher than in March and 9.5 cents above a year earlier.

PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS DECLINE FROM MARCH TO APRIL

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-April was down 6 points from a month earlier. At 259 percent of the 1967 base, the index was 1 point under April 1979. This was the first time since August 1977 that the prices received index was below the previous year. The index of prices paid as of mid-April was up 1 point from March and 36 points above last year.

Milk cow prices in April averaged \$1,210.00 per head, an increase of \$20.00 from March and \$200.00 higher than a year ago. Calf prices dropped considerably from March to April. At an average of \$96.00 a hundredweight on April 15, calves were down \$24.00 from a month earlier and \$29.00 below April 1979.

Steers and heifers averaged \$63.60 a hundredweight in April, a decline of \$6.70 from March and \$12.40 less than a year ago. Slaughter cows returned an average of \$49.20 a hundredweight for mid-April, down \$1.60 from the previous month and \$8.30 lower than last year.

Hog prices averaged only \$27.10 a hundredweight as of April 15, the lowest since June 1974. Hogs dropped \$7.30 from March and were \$16.50 under a year ago.

Sheep averaged \$19.50 a hundredweight in April, down 50 cents from a month earlier and \$5.20 below April 1979. Lambs brought \$60.50 a hundredweight for mid-April, a decline of \$3.00 from March and \$6.50 less than a year ago.

Egg prices averaged 39 cents a dozen in April, the lowest since June 1978. Eggs dropped 7 cents from March and were 15 cents below April 1979.

Wheat averaged \$3.45 a bushel as of mid-April, down 5 cents from the previous month but 45 cents above last year. Corn prices averaged \$2.30 a bushel on April 15, up 6 cents from a month earlier and 11 cents higher than a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Month of April 1978	Month of April 1979	March 15 1980	April 15 1980
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	695.00	1,010.00	1,190.00	1,210.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	46.00	76.00	70.30	63.60
Cows	Cwt.	35.60	57.50	50.80	49.20
Calves	Cwt.	52.40	125.00	120.00	96.00
Hogs	Cwt.	44.40	43.60	34.40	27.10
Sheep	Cwt.	13.50	24.70	20.00	19.50
Lambs	Cwt.	61.03	67.00	63.50	60.50
Turkeys	Lb.	.380	1/	1/	1/
Eggs	Doz.	.460	.542	4.60	.390
Corn	Bu.	2.20	2.19	2.24 2/	2.30
Wheat	Bu.	2.60	3.00	3.50	3.45
Oats	Bu.	1.11	1.21	1.40 2/	1.43
Soybeans	Bu.	6.60	6.76	5.45	5.30
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	46.50	36.00	34.00	35.00

1/Insufficient sales to establish price. 2/Average for the month.

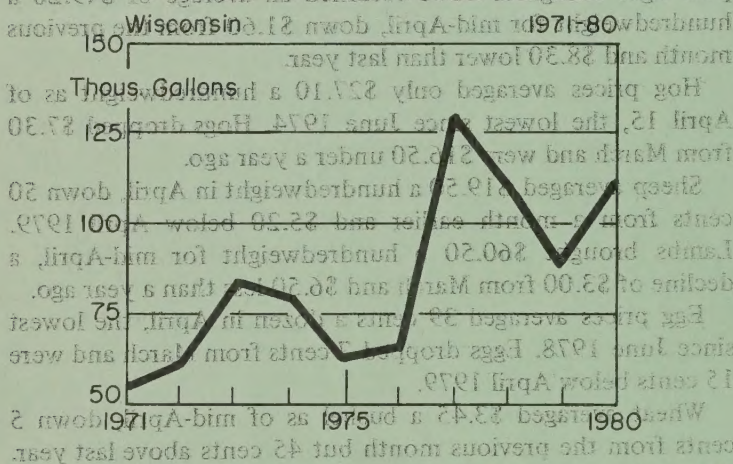
Oats returned an average of \$1.43 a bushel in April 3 cents more than in March and 22 cents above the previous year. Soybean prices dropped to \$5.30 a bushel in mid-April, the lowest since February 1978. Soybeans were down 15 cents from March and \$1.46 below April 1979.

Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$35.00 a ton in April, an increase of \$1.00 from a month earlier but \$1.00 under last year.

STATE'S MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION HIGHER

Maple syrup production in Wisconsin during the spring of 1980 totaled 110,000 gallons, an increase of 20 percent from the 1979 output. Weather conditions were not always favorable for maximum sap flow, but yields were up because less taps were made. Tapping started in late March for most producers and the season averaged 24 days. Sweetness of the sap was rated exceptional, with color medium and quality good. There were a few good days of sap run in early April and again after the middle of the month before record high temperatures in the 90's on the 22nd brought the season to an end. The value of the 1980 maple syrup production was estimated at \$1.5 million, up 26 percent from 1979 due to higher prices and greater production.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION



Production of maple syrup in the Nation for 1980 was estimated at 973,000 gallons, a decline of 20 percent from last year. The 1980 season in the major sugaring areas of the New England States was considered too warm by most producers. Many reporters indicated it was the worst year they had ever seen. The lack of good sap runs was attributed to a limited snow cover this past winter that allowed the ground to freeze to a deep level. The New York season was short, and Pennsylvania and Ohio also had shorter seasons than normal. Maple syrup prices for the Nation averaged a record high of \$15.60 a gallon in 1980.

MAY CROP REPORT

Rain during the week of May 11-17 brought some needed moisture for Wisconsin's newly planted crops. The heaviest rainfall totals for the week were in the south where some localities received over an inch. Other areas of Wisconsin had

variable amounts ranging from less than one-half inch to nearly an inch. This moisture was helpful for seed germination, development of early planted crops and activation of weed control chemicals. Topsoil moisture supplies had been reported as short by 56 percent of the reporters responding on the Weekly Crop-Weather report. Irrigation systems have been in use during the dry spring weather. Rainfall from April 1st to May 18th ranged from about 2 inches in the northwest to 5 inches in the southeast. Most areas are 2 to 3 inches below normal on their growing season rainfall. Growing degree days have been above normal in the north and east but below normal in the south and west. Warm temperatures prevailed in the State during the week of May 18-24.

Precipitation in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

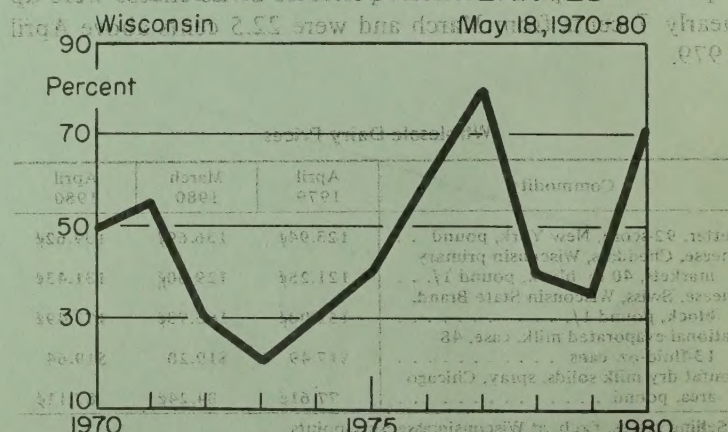
District	Month of April			Since January 1		
	1979	1980 1/	Normal	1979	1980 1/	Normal
Northwest	1.4	.7	2.5	7.0	3.8	5.7
North Central	1.2	1.0	2.4	7.4	4.2	6.0
Northeast	1.8	1.6	2.6	9.5	4.7	6.4
West Central	1.7	1.3	2.7	6.9	4.3	6.3
Central	1.7	1.3	2.8	8.4	4.5	6.6
East Central	2.6	2.1	2.8	10.5	5.0	6.8
Southwest	2.0	1.8	3.0	7.9	4.4	7.0
South Central	3.0	2.7	2.9	9.5	5.3	7.2
Southeast	4.5	4.3	2.9	11.6	6.9	7.7

1/Preliminary.

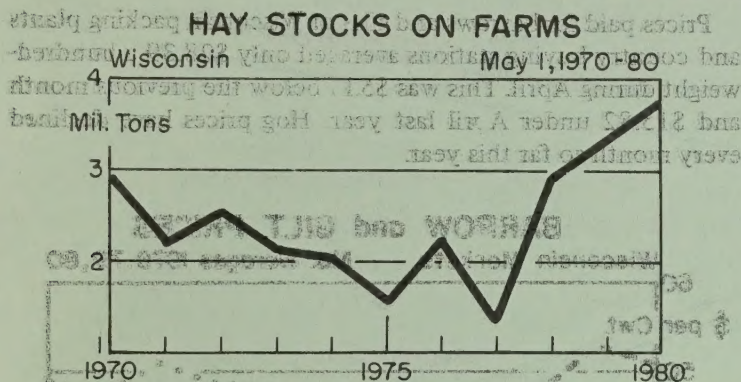
Planting of crops made rapid progress this spring. Farmers were able to get into the fields after the middle of April and had few interruptions as the weather was dry and there were fewer wet spots in the fields than usual. Planting of small grains was mostly completed by the middle of May. Early seeded grains were doing well but some late plantings had spotty germination due to dry weather. Corn planting was 70 percent completed by May 18th, double last year's 35 percent and also ahead of the 45 percent normally planted by that date. Farmers who had finished planting corn were planting soybeans. Planting of potatoes was completed in central and southern areas, with early potatoes emerged. Planting of peas, sweet corn, and other vegetable crops was making good progress. Apple trees were in full bloom in the southern half of the State before the middle of May, and cherry trees were in bloom in Door County on May 15th.

Hay growth was shorter than normal this spring due to cool temperatures and a lack of moisture. Winterkill was

PERCENT OF CORN PLANTED



heavier than usual in some areas of the State, especially on older hay stands. Many of the poor hay fields were plowed up and replanted to corn. Pasture conditions were also below normal in early spring. Hay stocks on Wisconsin farms as of May 1 totaled 3.8 million tons, a record high for that date.



RED MEAT STOCKS DOWN BUT POULTRY STOCKS UP

Cold storage stocks of red meat in the Nation at the end of April were 9 percent below a year earlier, but stocks of poultry were up 55 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Red Meat and Poultry
United States, April 30, 1980, and Comparisons

Commodity	April 30 1978	April 30 1979	March 31 1980	April 30 1980	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
FROZEN MEAT					
Beef	376,034	410,146	336,709	297,517	-27
Pork	281,695	278,345	290,974	342,810	+23
Venison	13,223	9,369	9,062	9,105	-3
Lamb and mutton	9,176	12,072	7,888	8,168	-32
CANNED MEATS IN COOLER					
Hams	60,775	57,393	38,139	43,309	-25
Other meats	12,074	16,040	13,782	12,722	-21
Total red meat 1/	752,957	783,365	696,554	713,631	-9
FROZEN POULTRY					
Chicken, all	107,209	105,334	148,181	158,129	+50
Turkeys, all	101,084	128,032	208,788	203,289	+59
Total poultry 2/	209,665	235,584	359,994	365,137	+55

1/Excludes cooler beef and cooler pork. 2/Includes frozen ducks.

Commercial Slaughter, April 1979 and 1980, Wisconsin and United States 1/

Species and area	Number slaughtered						Total liveweight		
	April			January - April			April		
	1979	1980	Change from last year 2/	1979	1980	Change from last year 2/	1979	1980	Change from last year 2/
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds		Percent
WISCONSIN									
Cattle, all	69	95	+38	313	362	+16	80.8	113.0	+40
Cows 3/	36.0	42.0	+17	161.5	178.6	+11	-	-	-
Steers and heifers 3/	21.5	38.2	+78	99.0	129.4	+31	-	-	-
Calves	24	30	+26	124	134	+9	5.0	6.4	+28
Hogs, all	183	209	+14	661	802	+21	43.8	49.4	+13
Sows 3/	2.4	2.0	-17	9.3	9.0	-3	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs	.5	.3	-40	1.1	1.2	+9	48 4/	35 4/	-27
UNITED STATES									
Cattle, all	2,533	2,712	+7	11,429	10,851	-5	2,676	2,922	+9
Cows 3/	424	430	+1	1,887	1,787	-5	-	-	-
Heifers 3/	653	685	+5	3,011	2,724	-10	-	-	-
Steers 3/	1,247	1,373	+10	5,606	5,452	-3	-	-	-
Calves	223	206	-8	1,030	867	-16	55	49	-11
Hogs, all	7,236	8,869	+23	27,276	33,098	+21	1,738	2,134	+23
Sows 3/	299	390	+30	1,207	1,537	+27	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs	444	485	+9	1,655	1,863	+13	51	55	+9

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Percent change based on unrounded values. 3/Federally inspected only. 4/Expressed in thousands.

There were 342.8 million pounds of pork in cold storage on April 30th, an increase of 23 percent from the previous year. Beef stocks, at 297.5 million pounds, were down 27 percent from April 30, 1979. Supplies of veal in cold storage at the end of April were 3 percent lower than a year ago, while stocks of lamb and mutton had a decline of 32 percent. Chicken stocks in cold storage on April 30th totaled 158 million pounds, 50 percent more than on that date last year. Turkey stocks exceeded 203 million pounds at the end of April, up 59 percent from a year earlier.

STATE'S LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER ABOVE APRIL LAST YEAR

The number of cattle, calves, and hogs slaughtered in Wisconsin during April was substantially higher than a year ago. There were 95,000 cattle slaughtered in April, an increase of 38 percent from April 1979. Cow slaughter was up 17 percent from the previous year, while the kill of steers and heifers had a gain of 78 percent. During the first four months of 1980, total cattle slaughter in Wisconsin was 16 percent higher than in that period last year. Cow slaughter for January through April was 11 percent above a year earlier, and the number of steers and heifers killed was up 31 percent.

Calf slaughter in April totaled 30,000 head, 26 percent more than in April 1979. For the first four months of this year, calf slaughter in Wisconsin was 9 percent larger than in that period last year.

A total of 209,000 hogs were butchered in Wisconsin during April, an increase of 14 percent from a year ago. Sow slaughter at 2,000 head was 17 percent less than in April 1979. The State's hog slaughter during January through April of 1980 was 21 percent greater than in those months of 1979. Sow slaughter for that period was down 3 percent from a year earlier.

The 300 sheep and lambs butchered in Wisconsin during April were 200 head fewer than in April 1979. However, sheep and lamb slaughter in the first four months of this year was up 9 percent from the previous year.

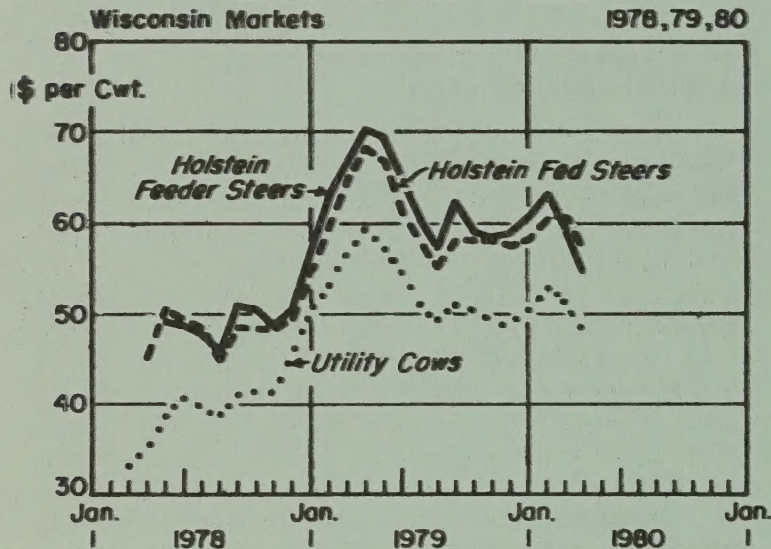
Livestock slaughter in the Nation for April was above a year ago except for the number of calves butchered.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES LOWER

Prices of beef cattle at Wisconsin auction markets declined during April and were well below a year earlier. Good and choice Holstein fed steers weighing 1,100 to 1,500 pounds averaged \$57.77 a hundredweight in April, down \$2.81 from March and \$10.71 lower than last year.

Large frame number two Holstein feeder steers weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds averaged \$54.81 a hundredweight during April. This was \$4.63 under March and \$15.50 below April 1979.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

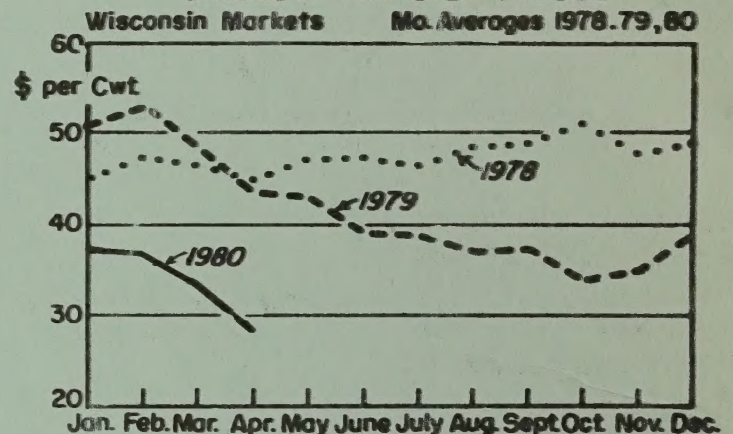


Utility cows brought an average of \$48.33 a hundredweight for April, a decline of \$2.98 from a month earlier and \$11.07 less than the previous year.

HOG MARKET DOWN AGAIN

Prices paid for barrows and gilts at Wisconsin packing plants and country buying stations averaged only \$28.39 a hundredweight during April. This was \$5.17 below the previous month and \$15.82 under April last year. Hog prices have declined every month so far this year.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



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